

**Claims**

What is claimed is:

- 5        1. A wind screen device for an outdoor grill comprising:
- a series of rigid plates comprising a horizontal bottom plate and a series of vertical  
         side plates contacting each other and contacting the bottom plate to form an enclosure,  
         the rigid plates capable of being alternately interconnected to form a wind screen capable  
         of housing an outdoor cooking means and further capable of screening out the wind from  
10      the outdoor cooking means and alternately folded down with all of the plates stacked  
         together for storage;
- a series of bottom connecting means for interconnecting each of the side plates to the  
         bottom plate, the bottom connecting means capable of forming a flexible pivoting  
         connection so that the side plates are capable of alternate orthogonal alignment with the  
15      bottom plate and further capable of being folded down onto the bottom plate in a stacked  
         array;
- a series of top connecting means for interconnecting each side plate to each adjacent  
         side plate so that each of the top connecting means may be installed on an adjacent pair  
         of side plates to maintain the side plates upright in contacting alignment with each other  
20      and with the bottom plate and removed from the side plates to allow the side plates to  
         fold down upon the bottom plate.

2. The wind screen device of claim 1 wherein each of the side plates has at least one pair of openings therethrough adjacent to a bottom edge of the side plate and the bottom plate has at least one pair of mating openings therethrough adjacent to each edge of the bottom plate and the series of bottom connecting means comprises a series of rings each insertable through adjacent mating openings between the bottom plate and a side plate.

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3. The wind screen device of claim 2 wherein each of the series of rings comprises a split metal ring capable of opening to be inserted through the plate openings and capable of closing to secured the plates together.

4. The wind screen device of claim 2 wherein each of the openings comprises a slotted opening running parallel to the adjacent edge of each of the plates.

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5. The wind screen device of claim 1 wherein each of the series of top connecting means comprises an angled clip having a bend angle therein conforming to the angle between adjacent side plates and an outer tab and an inner tab on each side of the bend angle, the outer tab and the inner tab spaced apart by a distance slightly less than the thickness of the side plates so that the angled clip fits over the top edges of the two adjacent side panels at the contact point of the two adjacent side panels with a tight

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friction fit.

6. The wind screen device of claim 5 wherein each of the series of top connecting means is fabricated of a heat resistant material.

7. The wind screen device of claim 6 wherein each of the series of top connecting  
5 means is molded of a heat resistant synthetic material.

8. The wind screen device of claim 6 wherein each of the series of top connecting means is formed of cut and bent sheet metal.

10 9. The wind screen device of claim 5 wherein the bottom plate is rectangular and there are four side plates intersecting at right angles and the angled clip is formed with a right bend angle.

10. The wind screen device of claim 1 wherein one of the side plates has an  
15 additional opening therethrough to admit a gas hose therethrough.

11. The wind screen device of claim 1 wherein at least one of the side plates further comprises an air vent hole therethrough.

20 12. The wind screen device of claim 1 wherein the side plates are covered by a resilient fire resistant flexible material forming bendable corners between the side plates

and two opposing plates of the side plates are bendable along a vertical centerline of each of the opposing plates to enable the side plates to be collapsed flat together for storage.